



# SRMT Kawennì:ios

*Helping Build a Better Tomorrow*

Seskéhko:wa / September 2009

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## Good Words of Welcome,

Greetings Akwesasnoron:

I hope everybody enjoyed their summer, short as it may have seemed! With September upon us I, for one, look forward to the autumn foliage as Mother Earth shows off and turns the leaves into a spectacular array of brilliant harvest colours!

September also means school is back in session so please do the speed limit and pay close attention to the busses to ensure our children remain safe. Wishing all of our returning students well this season and the best of luck in the new school year!

The Tribal Clerk's Office is in the early stages of re-organizing the file room: lands in particular. The Oneidas of Wisconsin have a very meticulous process regarding all land transactions that I would love to implement into the Tribal Clerk's Office. They have approximately 65,000 acres of reservation lands, have various programs and projects and a successful Section 184 program in place.

Earlier this year, Rebecca White, Paul Doxtator and I made a special visit to the Oneidas of Wisconsin Lands Management Office. They have an impressive software system which allows them to view entire files from their computer, without physically handling them, thus eliminating damage to delicate originals and/or loss/misplacement of such documents. Their GIS staff created an intranet site, accessible by Tribal programs, to maps and related media, which they are able to print out themselves.

We have a major project ahead of us including technical upgrades and improvements to our filing system, and I'm looking forward to the challenge.

Niawen,

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Tribal Clerk,

Corleen Jacco





## Construction Management Training

*By: Steven B. Cook  
Director of Economic Development*

Whether you are considering starting a new business, managing or planning to expand your current business, everyone can benefit from training.

Earlier this year, the SRMT Office of Economic Development (OED) conducted a survey within the community to identify the various types of training required. Our local business community (specifically our contractors) identified seven key areas where training is required.

We are pleased to be able to offer the following Fall Training Schedule to anyone in Akwesasne interested in attending. The training is co-sponsored by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) and the SUNY Canton Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

For more information or to register for this FREE training, please contact Lindsay Tarbell at the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe at 518-358-2272 ext 168 or email her at [Lindsay.Tarbell@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:Lindsay.Tarbell@srmt-nsn.gov). Seating is limited, so please register early. FREE food and refreshments will be provided for all sessions.

### MISSION:

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Office of Economic Development (OED) is committed to promoting economic self-sufficiency through the provision of training, technical assistance and financing designed to support the development of new and expanded businesses, which shall support a strengthened and diversified economy, while creating new employment opportunities.



Training	Date	Time	Place
Elements of a Business Plan	Oct. 7	6 - 8 pm	Wolf Clan
Surety Bonding Training	Oct. 7	6 - 8 pm	HAVFD
Construction Estimating & Bidding	Oct. 14	9 am - 3 pm	HAVFD
Project Management for Small Contractors	Oct. 28	9 am - 3 pm	HAVFD
Bonding for Small Contractors	Nov. 4	10 am - 11:30 am	HAVFD
OSHA Compliance - both sessions must be attended to receive certificate	Nov. 9 & 10	9 am - 3 pm	HAVFD
Basic Financial Statements & Budgeting	Dec. 2	6 - 8 pm	Wolf Clan



# Mohawk Tribal Member Receives Recognition from Journalists

## Founders Honored at National Conference

*By David T. Staddon, Editor*

The Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) recognized Mohawk Tribal member Ray Cook for being one of the founders of the association and for his long-time support for Native American Journalism. The recognition ceremony took place at the association's annual conference, held this year in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The organization was founded in 1984.

This year the association celebrated their 25th year anniversary and awarded Cook, along with 28 other Native American journalists, gifts and public acclaim for their contributions to the field of journalism. NAJA also presents annual awards to a variety of publications and journalists in several different categories.

"It was an honor to be recognized by NAJA. We founded NAJA two years after I built Akwesasne's first radio station and the same year we founded Indian Time newspaper, and a year before we created the Northeast Indian Quarterly at Cornell University. It was a very important era for Indian journalism," remarked Cook.



"It's important for us to maintain our vision for the future and understand the direction journalism is going. Native American journalists face special challenges in being heard in mainstream media and sometimes within our own tribes and society in general."

The Native American Journalists Association serves and empowers Native journalists through programs and actions designed to enrich journalism and promote



native views of current events. It encourages both mainstream and tribal media to attain the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and responsibility. The association provides scholarship, internship opportunities and professional recognition to its members and student members.

Cook has long been active in the field of journalism and has numerous associations with Native American broadcasting and journalism organizations. Some of these included the Indigenous Peoples Information Network, Akwesasne Freedom Radio, and the Indigenous Communications Association. He currently produces and edits audio podcasts for Indian Country Today and 12 Indian radio stations nationwide. Cook resides in Massena, New York.



# A New Vision for Archeology in the Haudenosaunee Homeland

Jack Rossen, Professor and Chair  
Anthropology, Ithaca College

Since 2000, my archaeological field schools have promoted a new vision in archaeology known as “indigenous archaeology.” This collaborative archaeology includes Native people and seeks to make archaeology a positive force for them, instead of the negative force it has too often been. Cayuga, Seneca, Mohawk and Oneida archaeologists have excavated with us. Besides learning the fundamental methods of field archaeology, students also learn about the political context of the research, including the Cayuga people, their land claim, problems, and progress. A series of speakers including Native leaders, Clan Mothers, and artisans visit the site to discuss their perspectives on life, history, and archaeology. The goal is to place the excavations into their proper cultural context. Archaeology is then an active shaper of social values and not just the study of old items.

The last three summers I have conducted excavations at a village on the eastern side of Cayuga Lake, north of Ithaca. Excavations were conducted with the permission of the Cayuga Council of New York and a gathering of Cayugas at the Six Nations Reserve. The site has a long and colorful history of investigation. Seneca archaeologist Arthur C. Parker discovered it in 1922. Excavations took place from 1933-1948 and became a tourist attraction from 1934-1940. The site was focal point for tensions between local inhabitants, archaeologists and the state. Our work

has had several themes: re-excavation and analysis of site materials to understand its true meanings, co-ordination with Native leaders throughout New York and Ontario, documentation of previous research in museum archives and understanding of the cultural history of archaeology and archaeological tourism in New York.

Radiocarbon dates in the 900s place the site within the early portion of what archaeologists refer to as the Owasco Phase. There has been disagreement as to whether these sites are culturally affiliated with Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) or Algonkian (non- Haudenosaunee predecessors). Academics refer to this issue as the in-migration versus in-situ development debate. The works of Dean Snow (in-migration) and Gary Crawford (in-situ) have been central to the recent versions of this debate. John P. Hart of the New York State Museum states in an article, *The Death of Owasco* that as a cultural period, there is no uniformity of pottery, plant remains, or architecture to be able to use a unifying cultural term. From my perspective, all this debate is amazing, since no systematic archaeological investigations of Owasco sites have occurred in the last 50 years.

With three seasons of fieldwork completed and lab analysis now underway (and likely to be ongoing for years), some preliminary observations can be made:

1. The materials appear to be obviously Haudenosaunee in origin. These include wampum beads (both purple and white), and especially smoking pipes. There are specimens that have Haudenosaunee face and mask designs on the bowls. One stem shows what appears to be a pine tree with rays emanating from it.

“The goal is to place the excavations into their proper cultural context.”



2. The architecture is clearly longhouse, particularly a row of 15 superimposed fire hearths with a row of parallel post molds.

3. Rather than being an incomplete or fragmented culture, the new excavations depict a florescent culture, with much time devoted to artistic expression on breathtakingly beautiful pottery and pipes.

Analysis will also reveal what plants were cultivated and collected, what animals were hunted, trapped, and snared and what fish were eaten. The amount of fishing gear at the site is staggering in terms of net sinker weights and fish hooks.

The still unanswered question is whether analysis of this site can be taken to the next step, to not merely address cultural affiliation and lifeway but also to reveal a functioning Haudenosaunee Confederacy of the 900s (instead of beginning in the 1400s-1600s, as most academics have long assumed). I am upbeat about this possibility. About 25 smoking pipes including trade specimens may pertain to this issue. The possible connection of some pipes to Confederacy medicine societies and the wampum beads also relate to this question. There is little doubt that the absence of modern excavation data has (until now) stilted our perceptions of the Owasco Phase and from the archaeologists's standpoint, the origins of the Iroquois Confederacy, have undermined our ability to understand its cultural processes, affiliations, and even its basic historical nature.

The potential effects of this site research on repatriation in New York State is notable. Given the Native American Graves Protection

and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) stipulation of proving cultural affiliation, an archaeological establishment of Haudenosaunee occupation in the 900s would establish affiliation for an entire class of archaeological sites that have not been previously recognized as Haudenosaunee for repatriation purposes.



Not only did the excellent preservation and quantity of artifacts surprise and amaze us, the potential implications of the data are astounding and humbling. Our goal is to perform careful analysis, including new high technology non-destructive techniques, on the artifacts, and keep Native people throughout the region informed as we learn more. We will treat the materials with the care, respect and reverence that such beautiful and emotional objects from the past deserve. There is still discussion among the Councils concerning the final disposition of the artifacts, especially as an alternative to the usual practice of placing them in a state-controlled curation facility. Should they all be reburied? Should some key artifacts be maintained as proof of the Haudenosaunee history that is emerging? Should the Haudenosaunee develop their own curation facility that maintains and controls this type of collections?

# Giving Back



Funeral Donations	\$ 2,000
Community Assistance	750
Medical Assistance	0
Community Events	2,500

# On The Road

Chiefs James Ransom and Mark Garrow traveled to Monticello, NY for a meeting on August 25, 2009. They met with Larry Echohawk, Assistant Secretary of the Interior and head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Chiefs James Ransom and Mark Garrow attended a meeting at the White House on Monday, August 31, 2009. The “listening session” was part of the Obama administration’s efforts to reach out to Indian tribes and improve dialogue.

On August 11, 2009, Chief James Ransom, Environment Director Ken Jock and Special Environmental Counsel John Privitera met with USEPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, and several other EPA staff in Washington DC. The meeting was to discuss the General Motors bankruptcy’s effect on clean up of the GM Central Foundry plant in Massena and ways to accomplish a complete remediation of the Superfund site and plant itself. They also talked about bankruptcy effects on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment case at GM.

# SRMT Kawennì:ios

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*“Good Words”*  
is published monthly by the  
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe,  
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# New Faces

Richard Benedict	Planning & Infrastructure	Laborer
Barbara J. Buckshot	Early Childhood Development	Program Manager
Tsiioni Fox	Administration	Community Video Project Manager
Michelle L. French	Human Services - Family Support	Habilitation Aide
Britney A. Gale	Human Services - IRA	Direct Support Staff
Paul A. Lauzon	Maintenance	Per Diem Staff
William J. Sunday	Human Services - IRA	Direct Support Staff
Mary Ann Van Buskirk	Human Services - Family Support	Direct Support Staff

# Calendar

## *Seskehko:wa/September*

26th & 27th - Parade of Nations Festival - Lamoureux Park, Cornwall, Ontario

## *Kentenha/October*

3rd - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10 am - Community Building

7 Miles for 7 Generations Walk

Gun Buy-Back Program - Behind Community Building

12th - Native American Day - Tribal offices closed - Transfer Station open

13th - Social Security Administration - 1:30 to 3:30 pm - Tribal Clerks office

24th - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day - Transfer Station - 9 am to 3 pm

# Jobs

- Tribal Gaming Commission Chairman
- Tribal Gaming Commissioner
- Data Entry Clerk - Environment

*Current postings and complete job descriptions are available online  
at: [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov)*



# *Eighteenth Seniorama Another Success*

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*By Janique Odjick, Marketing Manager  
Mohawk Bingo Palace*



Hundreds of the North Country's Baby Boomer generation enjoyed socializing, food and fun at the Mohawk Bingo Palace on Monday, August 17th at the eighteenth annual Seniorama Event. The event welcomed 953 visitors and showcased seventy trade show booths containing information, services and products geared to Baby Boomers. The event also hosted guest speakers, live entertainment, raffles, bingo and a great opportunity for Baby Boomers' to be informed of important changes that may directly affect them. Robert Miller, President of the North Country Chapter of Statewide Senior Action Council, Carlton

Doane, President of the New York Statewide Senior Action Council along with John Edie, Past Executive Director of the Statewide Senior Action Council also attended to interact with guests and answer questions. Members of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council were present to greet and welcome guests to the event. "Mohawk culture respects and honors Elders, so being the host for this event reflects that importance," said Tribal Chief Mark Garrow. The Mohawk Bingo Palace associates thank all those who helped to organize the event and who attended it.





## Scholarship Opportunity

*By David T. Staddon, Editor*

The Tribe has once again received support in the amount of \$35,000 from an anonymous donor to fund scholarships for St. Regis Mohawk Tribal university students. This round of scholarships will be twelve \$3,000 scholarships. The tribe has augmented the scholarship funding to make it an even \$36,000.

This year 10 undergraduate students and two graduate students will be funded.

In addition to the applicant's educational and career aspirations, the application letter must state the specific financial needs for which the scholarship will be used. What out-of-pocket expenses will be met by the scholarship must be included in the letter of application.

1. The application essay must be original.
2. Last year's recipients are NOT eligible for this year's scholarship program, except in the situation described in section three (3) below.
3. An undergraduate student who received a scholarship last year is eligible to apply as a graduate student this year.
4. All applicants must currently be enrolled as a college student.
5. Deadline for submitting essay/letter will be November 1, 2009.
6. Award decisions will be made by the awards committee by November 30, 2009.
7. Award recipients are required to submit a one page biography and current picture.
8. Checks will be distributed to recipients for 2010 Winter semester after receipt of recipients' biography and pictures.

Letters of application must be submitted to Rod Cook, Higher Education Director, 412 State Route 37, Akwesasne, New York 13655 and must be postmarked by no later than November 1, 2009. Late applications will be returned unopened.

## Important Notice about Membership

*By Corleen Jacco, Tribal Clerk*

Effective immediately all Tribal members must apply for new and replacement Tribal ID cards **in person** at the Tribal Clerk's office. For your protection and to ensure the security of membership, no tribal memberships will be processed by mail. Tribal ID cards are valid for five years.

We have had reports of attempted identity theft where the picture and name do not match. We also have dozens of applications that come in without a picture. These applications stay open for months and sometimes years awaiting documentation.

We understand that members living and/or working away may not be able to come into the office during regular business hours. We will be available evenings or weekends by appointment only. Call 518-358-2272 during regular business hours to set up an appointment.

A Tribal membership application has two parts: general information about the applicant and a biological family tree. Applicants must also provide documentation such as birth and marriage records. Applicants must meet the Mohawk blood quantum of 25% proving ancestry from the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.

The government section of the Tribe's web page is being updated to include more membership information and downloadable forms. The update should be completed by late fall or early winter.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment, please call 518-358-2272.

Corleen Jacco, Tribal Clerk  
Terry Cree, Records Clerk  
Rebecca White, Deputy Clerk  
Paul Doxtator, GIS Technician

# Northern TRIBS Duathlon

By Joshua Jock

On August 19, 2009, NTS hosted a Duathlon in Akwesasne to promote healthy living in conjunction with the Let's Get Healthy Program. The duathlon event consisted of 1.5mi run/walk – 8.0 mi bike - 1.5mi run/walk. A fun run consisting of 1 mile was also available for ages 12 & under. Thirty participants came to Generations Park for our first event to be held annually. It was great to see participants from Akwesasne and neighboring communities come together for some healthy fun! Prizes were given away in a lottery to competitors.

Thank you to the following businesses for generous donations: International Border Company, the Malone YMCA, Frederick's, the Potsdam Tread Mill, Massena Wal-Mart and Massena World Class Gym. A special Niawen:kowa is sent out to the collaborative efforts by the Let's Get Healthy Program for providing fruit and drinks, the Tribal Police for traffic safety and the Akwesasne Ambulance Unit for being prepared in the event of an emergency. Everyone came together to make this a successful and safe first-time community event. NTS also thanks volunteers Shawn and Andrea Martin, Kelli Soper, Jessica Jock, and Jay Wilkins for assisting with event tasks.

Northern TRIBS Swimming (NTS) is a USA Swim Club and has been conducting swim lessons in the North Country since 2007. NTS is working to encourage healthy living and exercise through friendly competition, in and outside the pool. NTS also provides Age Group Swimming and Competitive Practice in summer 2009 at Salmon River, Brasher Falls Central Schools and a swim camp at SUNY Potsdam. Our mission is to provide every opportunity for all swimmers to achieve their highest potential throughout the North Country. Members of our USA Swim Club participate from Malone, Akwesasne, Massena, Brasher, Potsdam, and Canton.

Please see our website at [www.goTRIBS.org](http://www.goTRIBS.org) for more information about upcoming events and swim program.



## Results

### MEN

Teaente (Kent) Fetter at 41:16  
Liam Chauss, Jeffery Soper, Pete Chauss, Larry Rowe, Norm Seguin, Will Glass, Kevin Pentalow, Bryan Newtown, Greg Stone, Todd Papineau, Arnold Joel, Cordell Benedict, Walter Benedict

### WOMEN

Jeni Backus at 52:00  
Pam Rowe, Lindsay Tarbell, Steevi King, Kara Buenier, Hannah Seguin

### TEAMS

Ray Mead/ Amy Hollister at 46:49  
Katrina Dow/Ray Mere 49:46

### 1 MILE FUN RUN

Madison Seguin at 9:28  
Skylar Fetter, Lauren Martin, Lindsay Martin, Awenhiyos, Kiera Fetter

*Grandfather Walter Benedict and grandson Cordell Benedict in their first duathlon are the oldest and youngest competitors.*



# Diabetes Center of Excellence Fund-Raisers

*By Janine Rourke  
Let's Get Healthy Program Manager*

Amazing, simply amazing!! These were celebrations of celebrations....The Let's Get Healthy and St. Regis Mohawk Health Services staff were awed. Donations for the Diabetes Center of Excellence building project came in, during the July 2nd Black Tie Event and the 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on August 14th. The Akwesasne Housing Authority sponsored both events.

## **Black Tie Event**

As part of their 25th anniversary celebration, Lorraine Thomas of the Akwesasne Housing Authority offered this idea for the Diabetes *Center of Excellence* building in February 2009. Retha Herne and the AHA staff rounded up a team with vast creativity and the desire to make this special event. The Black Tie Event committee met frequently to decide on decorations, sponsorship design, entertainment, community participation and endless details. With Jacobs Tobacco Manufacturing's well-known generosity, the Black Tie Committee members secured the venue and dove into creating an atmosphere of elegance, sparkle and a Vegas-like show of dancing, song and impersonation.

Black Tie participants began the process through silent and public auctions, generating \$19,000. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe strengthened its support for the project with a \$30,000 check. To the astonishment of many, Retha Herne, AHA Director, presented a check for one million dollars to Debra Martin, Executive Director of St. Regis Mohawk Health Services. This support

for the Diabetes *Center of Excellence* project provides a foundation to the generosity of St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Black Tie event participants, Akwesasne families and friends in surrounding communities. Retha Herne, Debra Martin, Janine Rourke, Brian Garrow, Nancy Jacobs and Chief Monica Jacobs wove the emotions of how diabetes affects every Akwesasnoron family.

## **Golf Tournament**

The 3rd Annual Golf Tournament for the Diabetes *Center of Excellence* Building Fund was held on August 14th. The day was filled with competition, the sun's heat and Malone's awesome course. The unsung heroes of St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Health Services and Akwesasne Casino again led this successful tournament. Rob Cree, Dr. Benson Kelly, Debra Martin, Vicky Jock, Gloria Herne, Sherri Roundpoint, Mark Martin, Star Thomas and Kelly Jackson gave their time and hearts to coordinate sponsors, teams, supplies and awards.







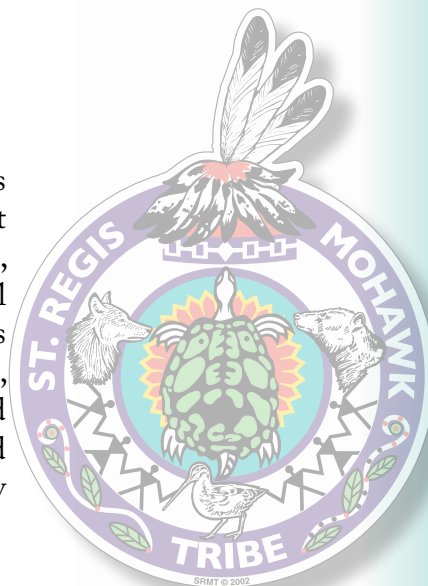
Chiefs James Ransom and Monica Jacobs reinforced their support with a \$30,000 check to ensure the Diabetes *Center of Excellence* building will soon become a reality.

### ***Center for Excellence***

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal leadership is *Helping Build a Better Tomorrow* through state-of-the-art diabetes treatment and prevention models. This includes physical activity, diabetes self-management education, nutrition therapy and other best practices for every Akwesasne family. The *Let's Get Healthy* staff test and try many different educational strategies in diabetes and prevention. They are ready to move forward with successful program models for Akwesasne. The team has grown in experience and skills to be diabetes care leaders and experts in the specialties of nursing, fitness, nutrition and lifestyle coaching.

The Diabetes *Center of Excellence* will deliver state-of-the-art diabetes-related programs and services to the community of Akwesasne through two phases of construction. The *Let's Get Healthy* staff will integrate a range of educational strategies in diabetes management, nutrition therapy, physical activity, smoking cessation and stress management. They will use the models

of best practices in adult weight management, youth and physical activity, diabetes self-management, pregnancy and diabetes and community advocacy.



Grassroots support from many individuals and groups such as the Annual Golf Committee members and golfers, Akwesasne Garden Club members, the Annual 7 Miles for 7 Generation walk participants and the St. Regis Mohawk School has brought in over \$216,500. With the \$60,000 donation from the Tribe and one million from AHA the total donations/dedications so far are \$1,276,500. The Tribe's Department of Planning and Infrastructure is pursuing federal grants to help meet Phase 1 project costs. Total projected costs are \$6.8 million.

The 7 Miles For 7 Generations Walk will take place on October 3rd. Please contact the *Let's Get Healthy* Team if you are interested in walking or making a donation.



The teams of the *Let's Get Healthy* Program: Diabetes Grant and Mohawk Healthy Heart express their great appreciation for the work of so many to help raise funds. From the *Let's Get Healthy* team, many thanks to all for your support and advocacy for this building. Businesses, families and organizations are all important factors to win the diabetes battle.



The SRMT Air Quality Program just finished a study on the exposure of benzene and other air toxics in Akwesasne. The project took samples of ambient (outdoor) air as well as personal exposure samples, gasoline samples and vehicle emission samples. On Ohiairihko:wa/July 29, 2009, Dr. Alan Rossner, Clarkson University, presented the results of this study for the participants at a special meeting at the Mohawk Bingo Palace. This study measured benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylenes (BTEX).

A 24-hour sample was collected every sixth day for a year at nine locations around Akwesasne. The sampling canisters were analyzed using approved EPA standard protocols at the facilities of the Center for Air Resources Engineering and Science at Clarkson University (CARES). A gas chromatograph was used to perform the analyses. 468 samples were analyzed in this study.

Two types of source samples were collected and analyzed. For point sources, gasoline samples were collected periodically from multiple stations to account for the changing seasonal fuel formulas. For mobile sources, a series of tailpipe samples were collected from several vehicles each season.

Personal samples were collected at the same time as ambient samples on individuals working and living in Akwesasne. Volunteers wore small canisters to measure the benzene levels in their personal breathing

# Benzene in my Community?

*By Angela Benedict-Dunn*



zones.

The study shows that the benzene emissions from the neighboring aluminum smelting plant did not impact the reservation. The sources of benzene in Akwesasne were vehicle exhaust and gasoline evaporation. Benzene is very volatile, evaporates readily at normal temperatures and pressures, so exposure would have to come from a more localized source.

As expected, the gas station attendants were exposed to the highest BTEX concentrations. The average benzene concentration at the gas station was 16.6µg/m3.

Gas station attendants are exposed to an average concentration of benzene 16 times greater than the SRMT ambient level. The gas stations in Akwesasne that have only one gas attendant had higher BTEX concentrations compared to those that had a greater number of attendants. The concentrations were higher because a single individual receives more exposure from the same number of vehicles.

The land owners who participated received a copy of the report, a plaque and a gift certificate for the use of their property. The individual participants of the study received a copy of the report and a gift certificate.

To get a copy of the complete report please contact the SRMT Environment Division at 358-5937 or email Angela at [angela.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:angela.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov).



## Owera' shon: a (The Winds)

*The idea of this column is to promote clean air practices in each of our homes, in our personal behaviors throughout each day, in line with our Mohawk cultural value system. In no way is this column meant to be an indictment of anything that you choose to do. Instead, this is in place as a simple thought-provoking tool, to reveal some good ideas and some interesting notions. Please present any comments, complaints, or questions to Angela Benedict-Dunn, Air Quality Manager or Ken Jock, Environment Division Director. We welcome your thoughts and opinions.*

# Gun Buy-Back



Saturday, Kentēnha/October 24, 2009

12 Noon to 4 pm and 6 to 10 pm

Warehouse behind Tribal Community Building

The purpose of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Gun Buy-Back program is to promote peace and safety in Akwesasne by providing Community members an opportunity to rid themselves or their household of weapons they no longer wish to have in their possession. This program is not intended to make a statement about the right to bear arms or to hunt; rather it is intended as a first step to take a stand against the acts of violence we've been experiencing here in Akwesasne.

For the safety of all involved, the following guidelines must be followed when turning in a weapon:

1. Only residents of Akwesasne 18 years of age or older shall be permitted to turn in weapons under this program.
2. Weapons must be emptied of all bullets, shells, BBs, or other ammunition.
3. If ammunition is turned in as well, it must be separate from the weapon.
4. If the weapon has a safety, it must be on.
5. If the person has a gun lock available, it should be used.
6. Weapons must be transported in the closed trunk of an automobile OR in the bed of a pick-up truck that has a closed and locked cap.
7. Weapons must NOT be transported in the passenger cabin of any vehicle.
8. Weapons must NOT be transported in an open bed of a pick-up truck.
9. Weapons may NOT be transported in a van of any kind.
10. Weapons may NOT be turned in on foot or in any concealed manner.
11. Community members will be permitted to enter the gun drop area one vehicle at a time.
12. Once in the Gun Drop area, community members will not be permitted to handle any weapons at any time.
13. Community members will receive amnesty for the possession of the weapon on the day it's turned in.
14. If there is a suspicion that the weapon may have been used in a crime, the Tribe reserves the right to ask questions regarding such a weapon.
15. Weapons will be appraised on site and a gift certificate to the First Nations IGA will be issued to the individual turning in the weapon.
16. Gift certificates will be issued according to the relative appraised value of the weapon and the following listed dollar amounts will be issued. Please note that the listed dollar amounts may be subject to change, based on the relative appraised value of the weapon: \$25 -- \$50 -- \$75 -- \$100
17. Gift certificates will not be given in exchange for water or squirt guns.



If a community member is uncomfortable touching or transporting a weapon to the drop off, arrangements can be made to have the weapon picked up and the person will still be entitled to a gift certificate. Please contact Tribal Police at 518-358-9200 to arrange for a pick up on the day of the event.

For more information, please contact Tribal Sub-Chief Ron LaFrance, Jr. at 518-358-2272.





# JOM News

*By Michelle Smoke*

## **The 2009 Generations Park Summer Program**

Participants had many activities to choose from including the Frog Hunt and Scavenger Hunt as well as sport activities such as Soccer. The Let's Get Healthy Program coordinated a PROS VS. JOES game during the last week of the program. Our students also went on many field trips. They went to the beach weekly, bowling and movies every other week. Students who attended the program nearly every day went to Water Safari in Old Forge. It was a beautiful day to splash in the water park.

The summer program was held Monday – Friday and served over 50 families. It ran from July 13 to August 21. Many thanks to our program director Teresa Mitchell, our summer workers, and all of our summer students and parents.

## ***What's that "INC" doing on your child's report card??***

Remedial tutors are available at both Salmon River and JW Leary. Please contact us if you feel your child is in need of this service. After-school tutoring is also available at the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club from 7-9 PM Monday through Thursday. It is open to all students, regardless of membership at the AB&GC.

## ***Game Time!***

Basketball registration will begin in October. Please feel free to contact the JOM office for more info.

## ***Let's Talk Politics...***

The CLOSE UP Program / American Indian Youth Summit will be held February 7—14, 2010. Eight students in grades 9 thru 12 will be chosen. It is a week-long look at political life in Washington D.C. This is held in conjunction with USET's Annual Impact Week Meeting. Applications can be picked up at the JOM office or the guidance office at Salmon River or Massena Central High School.



## ***Dreaming of becoming an aspiring engineer, scientist or have an interest in the sciences??***

Students in grades 7 - 12 can join the Akwesasne Mohawk AISES High School Chapter. AISES stands for American Indian Science & Engineering Society. Chapter members can attend the National American Indian Science & Engineering Fair, travel to various places for workshops, programs and other events with College AISES Chapters, attend the National AISES Conference (this year to be held in Portland, Oregon), and are eligible for scholarships and internships. Bi-weekly meetings are held on Thursdays starting in September, location to be announced.

## ***We Want Your Voice To Be Heard***

If you have an interest in leadership and making a difference in our community, join the Akwesasne Mohawk Youth Council. Students in grades 7—12 are invited. The Mohawk Youth Council is affiliated with United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY).

## ***Winners***

Art contest - Karla Thompson  
Honor roll incentive - Olivia Cook and Karley Cree

Congratulations honor roll incentive winners, keep up the good work!!

For more information on these or any other JOM initiatives, please contact JOM staff:

Corrina Bero, JOM Director or Michelle Smoke, Administrative Assistant at 518-358-2272 ext. 247 or 252. Or by e-mail to [michelle.smoke@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:michelle.smoke@srmt-nsn.gov).



# Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

by Laura Weber, Solid Waste Project Manager



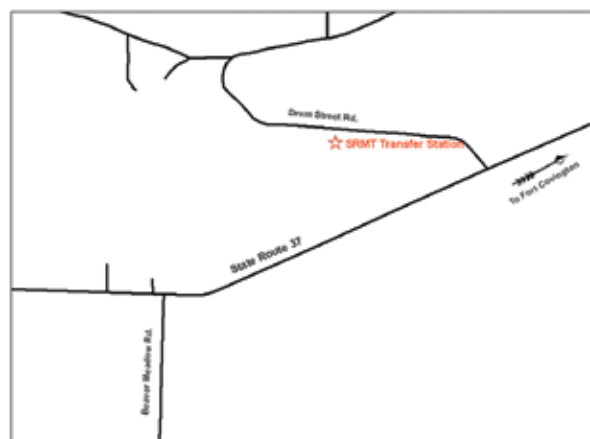
Mark Kenténha/October 24 on your calendars. This will be the day that the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Solid Waste Program will be offering a free collection of household hazardous wastes at the Tribe's transfer station. Bring your materials in original containers or packaging, or in secure, clearly labeled, leak-proof containers. Make sure lids are tight on the containers. Group similar materials in the same area of your car to make unloading easier (i.e. group oil-based paints together).

What to bring from the:			
Yard	Garage	House	Workbench
Pesticides	Antifreeze	Drain Cleaners	Rust Preventatives
Insect Sprays	Brake Fluid	Oven Cleaners	Wood Preservatives
Rodent Killers	Wax Polish	Furniture Polish	Wood Strippers
Muriatic Acid	Engine Degreaser	Metal Polish	Wood Stains
Fertilizer	Motor Oil	Moth Balls	Paint Thinner
	Gasoline	Iodine	Lead Base Paint
	Kerosene	Art Supplies	Solvents
		Craft Supplies	Degreasers
		Photo Chemicals	Sealants
		Pool Chemicals	Latex Paint
		Floor Cleaners	Oil Based Paint
		Bleaches/Ammonias	
		Electronic Wastes	
		Fluorescent Lights (unbroken)	

## Notice

The Transfer Station will be closed from 11 am to 5 pm on Kenténha/October 1st so staff can attend training.

The Transfer Station is located on County Route 43 approximately 2 miles east of Beaver Meadow Road.







# Akwesasne Employment Resource Center

*By Colleen Nolan, AERC Facilitator*



Since opening its doors in June, the Akwesasne Employment Resource Center has held numerous events. The Grand Opening, which was held on July 9th, officially introduced the Center to the community. It was a day to celebrate a 'borderless' joint venture brought together by community organizations. The event was extremely successful. An Open House was hosted on July 21st, for local employers, to inform them how we can work together to fulfill their employment needs. The AERC also proudly displayed a booth at the Annual Wellness Day that was held at the IGA on August 6th. Staff members participated and were readily available to inform the public about the newly opened Resource Center. The response from the community was fantastic; brochures were handed out to community members along with information on our services from our staff members. Our booth will also be displayed in the upcoming Disabilities Awareness Day, hosted by the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program at the end of September.

Our Wall of Fame, designed to showcase clients who have become employed utilizing our services, is becoming increasingly filled with proud faces. Come visit the Resource Library and see how we can assist you with becoming employed, whether it's tweaking your resume, viewing our job listings, or browsing online for postings - we are here to help you make that connection. Don't miss your chance to sign up for our upcoming Job Finding Club. September's class is full, but we are accepting applicants for our October and November's Job Finding clubs. The Job Finding Club can assist you with finding that job you've always wanted. Looking for a job is hard work and by signing up for the Job Finding Club, we will help you become more confident in your job search by providing you with tools and techniques you need to obtain that job.

So, whether you're looking for a job, seeking additional resources, or searching for an employee... Stop by, our friendly staff is here to help! Call us at 518-358-3047.







# It's In Our Hands

## Akwesasne's Participation in the 2010 Census Matters



The 2010 Census questionnaire asks only a few simple questions of each person — name, relationship, gender, age, and date of birth, race (and within the race question, your enrolled or principle tribe), and whether the respondent owns or rents his or her home. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail or to a census taker.

The race section of the questionnaire consist of two parts: Race and Hispanic Origin.

Figure 1 represents the proposed question on race. The Census Bureau has compiled a list of past answers and consulted with Tribes to provide the following potential responses for Mohawks:

- Mohawk
- Iroquois
- Canadian Indian
- Mohawk Canadian

Respondants of mixed heritage can select more than one box.

The second question about race is displayed in Figure 2. It asks about Hispanic origin. Everyone should answer both questions. If you are selecting only American Indian as your race, you should check:

☒ No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin.

If more than one box is checked in Figure 1, some people of mixed heritage could check one of the yes options for Hispanic origin.



Figure 1.  
Proposed 2010 Census Question on Race

9. What is Person 1's race? Mark ☒ one or more boxes.

<input type="checkbox"/> White		
<input type="checkbox"/> Black, African Am., or Negro		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="text"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian
<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Guamanian or Chamorro
<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian — Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander — Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="text"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Some other race — Print race: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="text"/>		

Figure 2.  
Proposed 2010 Census Question on Hispanic Origin

NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

8. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

<input type="checkbox"/> No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Puerto Rican
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Cuban
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="text"/>

Households in the U.S. can expect their questionnaires delivered in March 2010.

Demographic characteristics for the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation 2000 Census reported of the 2,699 residents:

- 2,629: American Indian,
- 56: White,
- 12: 2 or more races and
- 2: some other race.

For more information: [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov)

# Disability Awareness Day



*By Jason McDonald,  
Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation*

The 7th annual Disability Awareness Day will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009.

It will be held from 9am to 3 pm. at the Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department Station #1 at 818 State Route 37 near the First Americans IGA.

The Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) program is coordinating the event which will provide information regarding the many programs and services offered by tribal, state, federal and local human services agencies.



In addition to information booths, food and craft vendors will be set up throughout the day.

A guest speaker, Jim Warne, will provide inspiration and motivation for rehabilitation program workers and participants. He has over 15

years experience working with American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation. He is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Tribe. Jim has been involved as a motivational speaker in "Indian Country" for his accomplishments in professional football, television and movie acting as well as academic and professional achievements.

For more information on Jim please go to his website: [www.jimwarne.com](http://www.jimwarne.com).

Contact the TVR program staff at 518-358-2272 if you have any questions or would like additional information:

Jason McDonald, Program Manager

Deidre Rourke, Job Developer

Bettina Whitebean, Counselor

Joseph Chamberlain, Counselor

Nicole David, Administrative Assistant

## National Recovery Month

*By Tiffany Leabo, A/CDP Prevention Program  
Prevention Educator*

September is National Recovery Month. The St. Regis Mohawk Health Services Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency Prevention Program would like to help inspire people struggling with addiction to take the next step toward recovery and a new life.

One out of two Americans knows someone who is in recovery from addiction to alcohol, prescription drugs or other illegal drugs. Having triumphed over this disease, they are now living healthy lives. Recovery can be a period of great personal fulfillment and growth for individuals, their friends, family members and loved ones. Sharing personal stories and experiences encourages those on the path to recovery and also inspires hope in others who are still struggling.

Professionals and addiction experts often use the term "recovering" rather than "recovered", because even with a commitment to abstinence, all who struggle with addiction are vulnerable to relapse. Many people view the work of recovery as an ongoing, lifelong process of growth and change - one that requires the continued support of family and friends.

Recovery is difficult, but it becomes easier with the help of loved ones and a strong community.

For Hope, Help and Healing contact the St. Regis Mohawk Health Services Alcoholism Chemical Dependency Program at 518-358-3141 ext.160.



# Tribe Sponsors Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

*By David Staddon, Editor*



Tribal Council expressed its appreciation to the teachers and staff of the Mohawk and Salmon River Schools for the challenges they overcame last year. Administrators closed the Mohawk School for the whole academic year to undergo a hazardous waste cleanup when mold and asbestos was discovered in one of its wings. Administrators transferred teachers, students and classrooms to the Salmon River School where they conducted instruction for the elementary students.

The appreciation was expressed in the form of a luncheon on Wednesday September 2nd. Tribal

Chief Monica Jacobs attended the luncheon at the Mohawk School and Tribal Chief James Ransom attended the luncheon at Salmon River. On Tuesday morning September 1st, Chief Jacobs attended the teacher orientation at Salmon River High School and provided warm words of welcome and thanks to the teachers and staff.

The Mohawk School has re-opened for the 2009-10 academic year and the building has been restored and looks great. Congratulations to all the teachers, staff and students who overcame a lot of inconvenience last year.





# 2nd Annual Warren S. Conners Sr. Memorial Golf Tournament for Hospice

*by Todd Conners*

On Sunday August 30th, the community of Akwesasne once again banded together to play some golf and raise money for Hospice of the North Country. Hospice of the North Country proudly provides specialized end-of-life care to approximately 20 – 30 patients and their loved ones each year in the community of Akwesasne and in return our community showed our gratitude and appreciation in turning out to support this worthy cause. This tournament raised over \$12,000 this year and once again it shows that the Mohawk people are united in supporting this worthwhile endeavor. The money raised from events like the Warren S. Conners Memorial Golf Tournament ensures that Hospice of the North Country will continue to serve the terminally ill and their families in our community.



The tournament committee thanks the St. Regis Mohawk Community Partnership and the Akwesasne Area Management Board in being our title sponsors. This tournament once again was a huge success with the generous support of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Mohawk Bingo Palace, the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino and the Akwesasne Area Management Board. It was not only the title sponsorship that made this tournament a success, it was the people of our community that gave what they could to support our cause. A tremendous Nia'wen to all of our volunteers that gave their time and effort to support Hospice of the North Country. Our community once again made a statement that we care.

## ***Get reconnected!***

This blank page to be filled by Tribal Members living away from Akwesasne. Send us news of what you and your family are doing while away from Akwesasne. Everybody likes to keep up with family – so here's your chance!

Send all submissions to: [aimee.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:aimee.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov)

Pictures would be great, too. (high-resolution, jpeg format)

Public Information staff reserves the right to edit, publish or not publish any articles or submissions. We prefer news blurbs from 50 to 150 words. Please include contact information with your submission so we can contact you if we need to.



# HISTORY OF A TREE 1956 — 2009

*Aceraceae Acer saccharum*  
*Sugar Maple*

*By Patrick Kelly*  
*SRMT Environment Division*  
*Forestry Resources*

**1955** Sugar maple in Snye produced a seed.

**1956** Seed germinated to form a new tree seedling.

**1963** Tree reached 4' in height, indicated by innermost ring, earliest record in tree.

**1968** Tree is 1" DBH\*, Salmon River School gets Mohawk representation on board of directors.

**1970** This tree began a faster rate of growth. Clearing likely gave tree more light and less competition. Tree experienced better growing conditions.

**1978** 4.8" DBH. St Regis Mohawk Health Service starts.

**1982** 6" DBH. At this time a sugar tap was put in. To make room for the bucket, a branch (4' from the ground, and 1" in diameter) was cut. The tap was never put back in and this tree was never used for syrup production again. Possibly due to the low sap production of the tree. It was too small at this time to produce a good amount of sap. The branch decayed back to the 1978 growth ring.

**1987** Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment started.

**1991** The mostly healed over branch was damaged again and began to decay, possibly due to a fungus.

**1993** The tree began to show a slower rate of growth, likely caused by competition on the site. Later years in the tree's life had very slow growth and rings became harder to distinguish.

**1995** The tree had healed over the damaged branch. ATFE becomes incorporated.

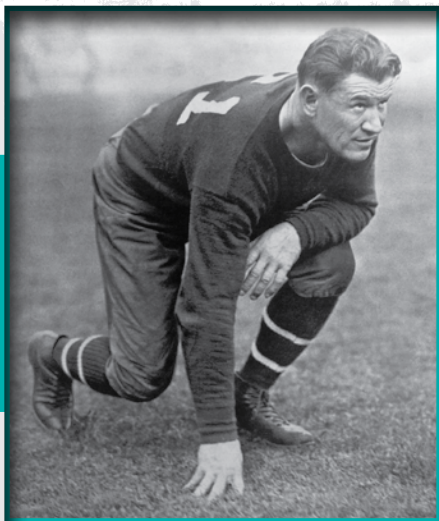
**1999** Akwesasne Mohawk Casino opens. The tree has reached 10" DBH.

**2000** The growth of the tree slowed down and was stagnant. Growth in the next 8 years were less than an inch of diameter, compared to over 4 inches between 1980 and 1990.

**2009** In late winter/early spring, the tree was cut on a weekend by unknown persons. The site at this time was being treated as part of a silviculture operation to increase the health of black ash. Members of the crew in the field discovered the tree had been cut, with a 4' stump, the notch was very thin. The notch was picked up by project personnel and brought back to examine. This tree was 53 years old when it was cut, and was 11" DBH (DBH is 4.5' from the ground, used to measure trees).

\*Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) it is 4.5' from the ground level, it's a standardized height used to measure trees.





# JIM THORPE: The World's Greatest Athlete

Mountain Lake PBS  
Native American series on  
Kentenna/October 18th  
at 1:00 p.m.

*Jim Thorpe, The World's Greatest Athlete* is a biography of the Native American athlete who became a sports icon in the first half of the 20th century. Beginning with Thorpe's boyhood in Indian Territory it chronicles his rise to athletic stardom at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, winning two gold medals at the 1912 Summer Olympics, his fall from grace in the eyes of the amateur athletic establishment, and his rebound in professional baseball and football. Thorpe retired from pro sports at age 41 just before the stock market crash of '29. He worked as a construction laborer before getting work in Hollywood as a bit part player. He became a

representative for Indian extras in Hollywood, fighting for equal pay for Native Americans in the movies. In the 1940s he crisscrossed the nation as a public speaker advocating for Indian self-determination.

This is a film about a man who used his amazing physical prowess as a way to affirm his American Indian identity in the face of unrelenting efforts to eradicate Native American culture. *Jim Thorpe, The World's Greatest Athlete* is the first documentary film to tell the story of Thorpe's life outside of his well-known athletic victories. The film uses in-depth interviews with Thorpe's surviving children, some simple re-creations and images culled from over seventy-five archive sources, both stills and motion picture.



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